

Borough  of Nelson.

Medical Officer's
REPORT

FOR 1904.

Nelson:

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NELSON,

20TH FEBRUARY, 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough.

In giving you the record of the births and deaths for 1904, I find the births registered were 712, (375 males, 337 females), which gives an annual birth-rate of 20.3 per 1,000. The deaths, including premature births (23), and inquest cases (17), and 4 which occurred in public institutions out of the district, numbered 429, (216 males 213 females) which gives an annual death-rate of 12.2 per 1,000.

The deaths of children under one year including premature births numbered 116, which gives a death-rate of 16.2 per cent.; calculated on the number born during the year, excluding the premature births the rate is 13 per cent.

The following table epitomises the ages at which death occurred :—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------------------|
| Deaths under 1 year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 116} | 187 deaths under |
| „ of 1 year and under 5 years | ... | | | | 71) | 5 years. |
| „ 5 | „ | 15 | „ | ... | 11 | |
| „ 15 | „ | 25 | „ | ... | 21 | 238 deaths over |
| „ 25 | „ | 65 | „ | ... | 126 | 5 years. |
| „ 65 years and over | ... | ... | | | 80) | |

The ages of the four deaths which occurred out of the district were one male 27, one 52, one 74, and one female 51 years.

I enclose a detailed list of the causes of death, and the ages at which they died.

Under the "Notification of Infectious Diseases Act," there have been reported 1 case of Smallpox, 12 Diphtheria, 3 Membranous Croup, 26 Erysipelas, 96 Scarlet Fever, 10 Enteric Fever, and 2 Puerperal Fever. In the Enteric cases closed buckets with disinfectants for the reception of the excreta were supplied, and regularly removed to the Refuse Destructor. The case of Smallpox was at once taken to Catlow Hospital, the house she left disinfected and fumigated, the clothing taken to the Steam Disinfector, all contacts willing re-vaccinated, the refusals kept under observation for a fortnight. The case was of a serious confluent type but ultimately was discharged well. I have no doubt the infection in this case was caught at the sea-side where she had been staying. I am pleased to say we had no more cases. In the first quarter of the year (as I mentioned in my report for that quarter) we had a severe Epidemic of Measles, 20 deaths (11 males, 9 females) being registered. In the second quarter we had a smart visitation of Whooping Cough, six deaths being recorded. In the last quarter diseases of the respiratory organs were most prevalent, mainly attributable doubtless to the continued very wet weather.

Mr. Priestley has kindly condensed for me the following details of work done in the Sanitary Department:—

NUISANCES—232 Complaints of Nuisances received and investigated.

NOTICES—Abatement of Nuisances has in the majority of cases been secured by an intimation to the persons responsible, but 164 Statutory Notices have been served dealing with the following:—

68 Defective Sink Waste Pipes.

17 Mills without proper Sanitary Conveniences.

33 Ashpits without proper Doors and Coverings.

213 Ashpits with Floors below Ground Level.

- 2 Insanitary Ashpits.
- 14 Water Closets Blocked.
- 4 Accumulations of Filth.
- 26 Premises without sufficient W.C. or Ashpit accommodation,
- 12 W.C.'s without adequate flushing arrangements.
- 5 Untrapped Drains.
- 1 Dirty W.C. and approaches.
- 1 Percolation of Liquid Manure on to Highway.
- 1 Bakehouse without sufficient Ventilation.
- 1 Keeping Poultry in Back Yard.

UNSOULD FOOD—One Carcase of a Sheep weighing 1 cwt. and a fore and hind quarter of Beef weighing 180 lbs. have been seized and destroyed as unfit for food. The following articles have been submitted for inspection and destroyed, being unfit for food :—

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2½ cwts. of Beef | 82 lbs. Halibut |
| 1½ „ Offal | 17 „ Herrings |
| 4½ „ Apples | 19 „ Gurnets |
| ¾ „ Eggs | 23 „ Ham |
| 36 Cured Herrings | |

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS—One summons has been issued for exposing meat for sale that was unfit for food, a fine of 10/- and costs was imposed.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—There are 20 Private Slaughter Houses in the Borough, one building previously in use having been re-occupied during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.—There is only one common Lodging House in the borough, which is well conducted. No infectious cases have occurred therein during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—No new Offensive Trades have been established. There are 3 carried on in the Borough.

SCAVENGING, CLEANSING AND DESTRUCTOR.—

Scavenging and Cleansing are carried out by the Corporation Staff. All ashes and refuse are burned at the destructor which continues to work well. During the year 6273 loads of ashes, 3728 tubs of garbage, 145 loads of market refuse, and 2812 loads of light refuse, giving a weight of 6198 tons, have been destroyed. One horse, three cows, one sheep, one calf, and 23 pigs have also been destroyed. 1126 miles of streets have been swept, 21,540 gullies cleansed, 1580 loads of water distributed on roads and 1640 loads of snow removed.

WORKSHOPS.—The Workshops have been regularly inspected and the Register amended from time to time during the year, the general conditions thereof being satisfactory

There are 258 Workshops on the Register an increase of 19 during the year, 68 being Domestic; 90 Men's; and 100 Ordinary.

Classified according to Trades as follows:—
Bakers 58; Tailors 32; Dressmakers and Milliners 83;
Shoemakers and Cloggers 46; General 49.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.—The bedding, clothing, &c., from each case of Infectious Disease, except Erysipelas, has been disinfected at the Disinfecting Station after convalescence, and the rooms have been sprayed with Formalin Solution and fumigated with Formaldehyde Vapour. 452 articles of wearing apparel, 672 articles of bedding and 172 miscellaneous articles, have been disinfected by the Steam Disinfector, and 88 rooms disinfected.

Mr. Ball, Borough Surveyor, has kindly informed me that during the year plans have been approved for the erection of 145

houses, in addition to shops and other classes of buildings, while exactly 102 houses have actually been completed and certified as fit for habitation. At the end of the year the empty houses numbered 33, a decrease of 26 since Christmas, 1903, which gives an increase of 128 inhabited houses, and taking an average of 4·7 per house, an increased population of 601. The paving of 31 streets has been completed at a cost of £12,946; while there are now 25 in the hands of the contractors and notices have been issued for the paving of 47 more at estimated cost of £12,025.

At the Sewage Disposal Works in addition to the percolating bacteria bed, 100 feet in diameter, 7 beds, 60 feet in diameter have been completed, and 12 other beds of the same size will be completed shortly, and then the whole of the normal dry weather flow of sewage can be successfully treated.

The new Reservoir in the Ogden Valley was brought into use during the year and notwithstanding the dry summer we were enabled to give a constant supply of good wholesome water to all the customers within our water limits.

RAINFALL AT OGDEN, 1904.

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| January | 4·36 |
| February | 4·20 |
| March..... | 2·52 |
| April | 4·52 |
| May | 3·23 |
| June..... | 1·64 |
| July..... | 1·94 |
| August | 5·83 |
| September | 1·92 |
| October | 2·56 |
| November | 5·61 |
| December | 3·96 |
| <hr/> | |
| | 42·29 |

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. MILLAR

Causes of Death in Nelson at different ages for the year ended December 31st, 1904